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THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
TO THE  
**PENZANCE BOROUGH COUNCIL,**  
**For the Year 1938.**

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PENZANCE :  
BEARE & SON (L. TONKIN), UNION STREET.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,  
PENZANCE.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Penzance Borough Council.**

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1938, together with the Vital Statistics in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health's Circular 1728, dated 25th October, 1938.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. HADFIELD,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*12th August, 1939.*

## **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

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### **Medical Officer of Health:**

DR. R. H. HADFIELD.

### **School Medical Officer:**

DR. R. C. LAWRY.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector:**

A. T. HARPER.

### **Sanitary Inspector:**

R. E. WARBURTON.

### **Health Visitors and School Nurses:**

Miss D. ALLGOOD (Resigned February, 1938).

Miss J. DEVIS.

Mrs. L. FOSTER (Appointed April, 1938).

### **Public Analyst:**

DR. R. PENDRILL CHARLES.



## Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area 3,578 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938, 19,210.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to rate books, 6,044.

Rateable value £117,592. Sum represented by a penny rate, £470.

### Social Conditions and Industries.

The Borough, comprising as it does the villages of Mousehole, Newlyn, Heamoor and Gulval together with the town of Penzance, is busy throughout the whole year in a variety of pursuits. The natural beauties of the coastline and immediate hinterland together with the increased facilities provided for sport and entertainment, make this a popular holiday centre during the summer months, while even in winter the district still has an attraction for those who seek a mild climate.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are fishing and associated industries, dairy farming, market gardening and flower farming, shop keeping and the housing of visitors, while Penzance is a very important market town and shopping centre for the extreme west of the County. The Great Western Railway, and works in connection with the Docks and Harbours; the Penlee Stone Quarry, the Steam Laundry, Box Factory and the Fish Markets find employment for a considerable number of the population.

There is an average number of approximately 84 cases receiving weekly out-relief in money and kind to the value of £28.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Live Births	{ Legitimate	..	221	101	120
	{ Illegitimate	..	8	5	3

A birth rate of 11·9 per 1,000 estimated resident population.  
(National birth rate 15·1).

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Still Births	..	..	14	4	10

A rate of 57·5 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Deaths	..	..	229	101	128

A death rate of 9·2 per 1,000 estimated resident population.  
(National death rate 11·6).

**Causes of Death.**

					Male.	Female.
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	0	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	0	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	0	1
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	5	3
Other Tuberculous Disease	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cancer	..	..	..	..	17	27
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	..	..	..	..	8	9
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	25	35
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	..	4	9
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	2	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	2	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	0	1
Other Diseases of Liver	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	2	1
Acute or Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	10	4
Congenital Causes	..	..	..	..	4	1
Senility	..	..	..	..	2	4
Suicide	..	..	..	..	3	0
Other Deaths from Violence	..	..	..	..	5	2
Other Defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	5	12
Totals					101	128

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

				Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	Nil.	Nil.

There were eight deaths of infants under one year, 5 males and 3 females, all being of legitimate birth.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 34 (National death rate 53).  
All legitimate.

**Percentage of Deaths from Various Causes.**

Cancer	..	..	19·2.	Heart Disease	..	26·2.
Tuberculosis	..	..	4·4.	Accident	..	4·4.
Nephritis	..	..	6·1	Diabetes	..	2·6.

## Section B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—None available within the Borough.
- (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—There are two Ambulances in the Borough, and these have proved equal to all demands made during the year. One is provided by the Borough in connection with the Isolation Hospital and used entirely for infectious diseases, while the second, which is controlled by the Penzance Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and is used for general cases; 411 cases were carried during the year, and a grant of £10 was made by the Borough.
- (c) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—The County Tuberculosis Officer visits the Borough weekly and holds a Clinic at the West Cornwall Hospital.

The School Clinic is held on four mornings per week.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held weekly at St. Mary's Parish House, and DR RENTOUL attends once a month.

The Cornwall County Council undertakes the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases at their Tuckingmill Clinic.

- (d) **Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.**—The Isolation Hospital at Mount Misery is provided and maintained by the Council for the treatment of Infectious Diseases, and during the year 45 cases were admitted. The only Voluntary Hospital in the Borough is the West Cornwall Hospital, and treatment has been given to 945 in-patients and 364 out-patients.

There were 17 inquests held—11 on males and six on females.

- (e) **Midwifery and Maternity Services.**—There are ten Midwives within the Borough and they serve under the control of the Cornwall County Council.

No Hospital provision is made by your Council, but at the present time negotiations are proceeding which it is hoped will result in the provision of beds in connection with a recognised Maternity Ward of a General Hospital.

- (f) **Health Visitors.**—The Borough employs two Health Visitors, who also act as School Nurses. During the year 1,288 visits were paid to infants under one year of age, and 2,384 visits to children aged one to five years.

There are four Baby and Child Welfare Centres in the Borough to which mothers bring children under the age of five years. The children are weighed, and advice is given by the Health Visitor and the Medical Officer of Health in attendance. During the year 946 attendances were made by children under one year of age, and 1,374 attendances by children between the ages of one and five years. At the Ante-Natal Clinic monthly sessions are held, and 21 mothers or expectant mothers made 54 attendances, while the Health Visitor made 35 visits to expectant mothers.



In necessitous cases free milk is supplied and the total quantity provided for expectant or nursing mothers and young children was 1,909 gallons of liquid milk and 1,682 pounds of dried milk. The latter is supplied at cost price, except in special cases where it is provided free of cost.

(g) **Infant Life Protection.** There are nine foster parents and ten children enrolled on the register.

### Section C.—**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

**Water Supply.**—The arrangements for the Supply of Water are as stated in my Report for 1937, save that during the Summer months the main supply to the old Borough was augmented by pumping from the Newlyn stream, this additional supply being treated by chlorination before admission to the reservoir. Work is proceeding on the new waterworks at Drift for which sanction was recently obtained from the Ministry. It is hoped that this will be completed early in the year 1940.

Eight samples of water were taken and submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination at regular intervals, and these examinations shewed that, whilst generally satisfactory, more efficient filtration was required.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—There has been no important extension of the Sewerage System during the past twelve months, but while the Council recognises the fact that the arrangements prevailing in certain areas of the Borough are not sufficient for the needs of those areas, it is proposed to delay putting any extensive schemes of reconstruction into force until the housing programmes are sufficiently advanced to allow the two schemes of re-development to operate simultaneously. A Sewerage Scheme for Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul and Gulval is urgently needed.

**Closet Accommodation.**—Twenty-five new Water Closets were provided during the year.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

- 135 Complaints were received and attended to.
- 211 Houses were inspected under the Public Health Acts.
  - 4 Inspections of houses requiring repairs.
  - 6 Re-inspections of houses requiring repairs.
  - 4 Houses were made habitable.
- 376 Inspections of houses under the Housing Acts.
- 421 Re-inspections of houses under the Housing Acts.
  - 2 Inspections of houses re overcrowding.
- 23 Visits to infested premises.
- 16 Houses disinfested.
- 113 Visits to infected premises.
  - 61 Houses were disinfected.
  - 64 Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., were disinfected.
- 213 Miscellaneous Inspections and Visits.
  - 15 General Inspections.



**Sanitary Inspection of the Area** (*continued*).

- 110 Inspections of Drains.
- 54 Drains found defective.
- 95 Inspections of Drainage Work in progress.
- 6 Drains tested with water.
- 1 Drain tested with smoke.
- 5 Drains tested with colour.
- 44 Drains repaired or renewed.
- 1 New Drain provided.
- 28 Inspections of water closets.
- 11 Water closets found defective.
- 1 Water closet repaired.
- 25 New water closets provided.
- 27 Inspections re removal of offensive deposits.
- 43     ,,     ,, percolation of water.
- 3     ,,     ,, rat infestation.
- 6     ,,     ,, pollution of streams.
- 25     ,,     of dairies.
- 7     ,,     ,, ice cream premises.
- 45     ,,     ,, markets.
- 412   ,,     ,, food stores and shops.
- 2     ,,     ,, school premises.
- 16   ,,     ,, refuse piles.
- 25   ,,     ,, cowsheds.
- 21   ,,     ,, workshops.
- 7     ,,     ,, camping sites.
- 9     ,,     ,, stables and manure receptacles.
- 1     ,,     ,, a fish shop.
- 4     ,,     ,, fried fish shops.
- 2     ,,     ,, bathing pool.
- 2     ,,     ,, fair grounds.
- 5     ,,     ,, fish packing premises.
- 14   ,,     ,, farms.
- 3     ,,     ,, piggeries.
- 21   ,,     ,, bakehouses.
- 1     ,,     ,, a common lodging house.
- 40 Food samples were taken.
- 39 Food samples were reported genuine.
- 1 Food sample was reported not genuine.
- 1 Sample of milk was taken for bacteriological examination.
- 1 Sample of milk taken for bacteriological examination was reported genuine.
- 8 Samples of water were taken.
- 8 Samples of sea-water were taken.
- 85 Informal notices were served.
- 48 Informal notices complied with.
- 2 Statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act.
- 5     ,,     ,, complied with.
- 5     ,,     ,, served under the Housing Acts.

The one common lodging house in the Borough is kept in a clean and satisfactory condition and is inspected regularly.

### Inspection of Factory Premises.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notice. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
<b>Factories</b> with mechanical power .. .. .	20	2	
<b>Factories</b> without mechanical power .. .. .	35	10	
<b>Other Premises</b> under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	1	—	
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	56	12	

### 2.—Defects found.

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.  (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	6		
Overcrowding (S. 2) ..	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	1	1		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. .. .	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	2	2		

**2.—Defects found** (*continued*).

Particulars.  (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.  (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient .. ..	—	—		
Unsuitable or defective .. ..	—	—		
Not separate for sexes	1	1		
Other offences .. ..	2	2		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total .. ..	12	12		

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**—The only swimming bath in the Borough is a public one and is maintained by the Council. It is a salt water bath fed directly from the sea, and the water is frequently changed.

Eight samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

These disclosed the fact that the bathing pool could not be looked upon as entirely satisfactory. Accordingly a portion of the bathing pool was partitioned off for the use of the children and the water in this section was subjected to continuous chlorination and filtration. In my opinion the remainder of the bathing-pool should be dealt with in a similar manner and the bottom of the pool concreted before it can be deemed to be entirely satisfactory.

**Eradication of Bed-bugs.**—Instances of infestation are not uncommon and during the year 16 cases came to the notice of the department. These were dealt with satisfactorily.

It is a matter for regret that some of the houses on the Council's Housing Estates are found to be infested and this points to the advisability of disinfestation of the household effects of certain tenants removed from slum property. Two Council and fourteen other houses were found to be infested and disinfestation was carried out by the Local Authority, Zaldecide and Solution B insecticides being used. No means were taken to ensure that the belongings of tenants removed to Council Houses were free from vermin.

**Schools.**—There is an adequate water supply provided for each of the Schools, and with one exception the sanitary accommodation is good. At Gulval school the closets are on the conservancy system, but water closets will be substituted when the new sewer is provided for that area.

Details of action taken in relation to the health of the scholars are contained in the School Medical Officer's Report.

#### Section D.—Housing.

There are 6,044 inhabited houses within the Borough ; 152 houses being completed during the year.

The unfit houses are chiefly back to back and single back dwellings in congested areas and these are being dealt with in the Council's five year programme.

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#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	587
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	1014
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	522
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	18



2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices —	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	11
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year —	
(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	90
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	12
(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. ..	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	Nil

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4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—	
(a).— (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	81
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	83
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	555
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	6
(c).— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	28
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	181

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### Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—All milk and cream retailers are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The Milk and Cream Shops are registered and generally satisfactorily kept. Although in very few cases can the premises be considered ideal.

There are 65 cowsheds and 84 dairies in the Borough, which are regularly inspected.

One hundred and fifteen Inspections were carried out under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Two informal and 31 formal samples of milk were sent to the Borough Analyst. Of these, 32 were found to be genuine and one not genuine. There was one successful prosecution.

Samples of milk taken for bacterial and tubercle examination showed the presence of B. Coli in small numbers, but no tubercle bacilli were present.

(b) **Meat and other Foods.**—The bakehouses in the Borough are registered and well kept; 21 inspections were made.

Five thousand eight hundred and seventy-two inspections were made at slaughter houses and there were 45 inspections of markets. Under the provisions of the County of Cornwall Act, 1929, premises are registered for the sale of ice cream; 7 inspections were made and the premises were reported as satisfactory. Four hundred and twelve visits were paid to various food stores and 4 visits to fried fish shops.

(c) **Meat Regulations, 1924.**—Provide for the inspection of Carcases intended for human consumption at the time of slaughter. The Sanitary inspectors are certified Inspectors of Meat and other Foods (Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate) and carry out the duties of Meat Inspectors in accordance with these Regulations.

Five thousand eight hundred and seventy two visits were paid to the Slaughter Houses and other premises, and 8,850 Carcases were inspected at the time of slaughter, or immediately after:—

Oxen	..	..	..	..	2462
Sheep	..	..	..	..	2866
Calves	..	..	..	..	821
Pigs	..	..	..	..	2697
Goats	..	..	..	..	4
Total inspected	..				<u>8850</u>

The following table gives particulars of meat and other food rejected during the year as being unfit for human consumption.

<b>Tuberculosis.</b>				Oxen.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Carcases and Viscera	..	..		18	—	—	5
Forequarters	..	..	..	10	—	—	2
Hindquarters	..	..	..	2	—	—	2
Lungs	..	..	..	116	2	—	39
Livers	..	..	..	31	3	—	32
Heads	..	..	..	74	—	—	98
Mesenteries	..	..	..	18	—	—	26
Hearts	..	..	..	3	—	—	4
Kidneys	..	..	..	2	—	—	2

**Chronic Emaciation (Johne's Disease).**

Carcases and Viscera	..	..		3	—	—	—
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**Septicaemia.**

Carcase and Viscera	..	..		1	—	—	—
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**Moribund Animal.**

Carcase and Viscera	..	..		1	—	—	—
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**Bruising.**

Hindquarters	..	..	..	3	—	—	2
Carcase Meat	..	..	..	10 lbs.	—	—	43 lbs.

					Oxen.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
<b>Fever (Acute).</b>								
Carcases and Viscera	..	..	..	..	—	—	1	1
<b>Dropsy and Emaciation.</b>								
Carcase Viscera	..	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
<b>Pyemia.</b>								
Carcase and Viscera	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
<b>Umbilical Pyaemia.</b>								
Carcase and Viscera	..	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
<b>Immaturity.</b>								
Carcase and Viscera	..	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
<b>Fluke.</b>								
Livers	..	..	..	..	108	—	33	—
<b>Other Conditions.</b>								
Livers	..	..	..	..	172	2	47	51
Lungs	..	..	..	..	28	—	19	146
Heads	..	..	..	..	2	—	—	—
Hearts	..	..	..	..	2	—	1	40
Kidneys	..	..	..	..	2	—	—	4

Other Food rejected during the year included:—21 lbs. fish; 21 lbs. dry fish; 4 boxes (56 lbs.) kippers; 7 lbs. prawns; 32 rabbits; 3 tons of potatoes; 147 lbs. canned meat; 10 lbs. canned fruit; 6 lbs. luncheon sausage; 2 lb. saveloys.

(d) **Adulteration of Food.**—Two informal samples of milk were taken and also the following formal samples: milk 31, butter 8, lard 1, cream 1, vinegar 1.

One of the formal samples of milk was reported as being not genuine. Of the samples of milk and other foods taken none were found to contain preservative.

(e) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.** There are no laboratories in the Borough undertaking examinations of food. Samples for chemical analysis are sent to Southern Counties Laboratories, Old Library House, Bournemouth; while bacteriological examinations are carried out at—

- (1) The Clinical Research Association, Watergate House, London.
- (2) The Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

(f) **Shell-fish.**—There are no shell-fish beds in the jurisdiction of the Borough.



## Section F.—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

**General.**—The following cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) have been notified during the year:—

Disease.	Total Cases. All Ages.	AGE PERIODS.											Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	
		under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 and over
Scarlet Fever ..	34	1	—	2	1	5	19	4	1	1	—	—	—	17	—
Diphtheria ..	26	—	1	1	—	1	10	7	2	2	—	1	1	20	1
Erysipelas ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	—
Lobar Pneumonia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals ..	68	1	1	3	1	6	29	11	4	3	2	4	3	37	1

During the year the Council undertook the cost of 235 Bacteriological Examinations, as follows:—Diphtheria 229, Enteric 6.

No Vaccinations or Re-Vaccinations were performed by me during the year. One hundred and thirty visits were paid to infected houses; and 61 houses and 64 lots of bedding and clothing were disinfected by the Corporation.

Forty-five cases of Infectious Disease were treated at the Borough Isolation Hospital, 38 cases coming from within the Borough and 7 from outside districts.

Anti-diphtheritic serum is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners.

**Tuberculosis.** Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action necessary.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action necessary.

New cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .. ..								
1 .. ..								
5 .. ..								
15 .. ..		4			1			
25 .. ..	1	2	1			2		
35 .. ..	1				1	1		
45 .. ..					1			
55 .. ..		1						
65 and upwards								
Totals ..	2	7	1		3	3		

**Prevention of Blindness**—Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66. No action necessary.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

A marked decrease in the death-rate from the preceding year is a matter for congratulation. It is to be regretted, however, that the birth-rate, although fractionally greater than the preceding year, still remains much lower than that of England and Wales as a whole. The important work of the ante-natal clinic is reflected in the absence of cases of Puerperal Sepsis during the year. An inspection of the table relating to the figures in regard to meat inspection shows the importance of this branch of Sanitary administration, and serves to emphasise the need for a central abattoir, which in my opinion, sooner or later, must be considered by your Council. The present method of disposal of the town's refuse cannot be looked upon as satisfactory, as it merely consists of dumping same in various parts of the surrounding district. Much thought has been given to the matter and suitable sites have been sought for controlled tipping, but without success. This question, however, cannot much longer be shelved.

The figures relating to the causes of death, whilst shewing a gratifying lessening in the mortality from Tuberculosis indicate that deaths from Malignant Disease (Cancer) occupy an increasingly prominent position in the scale and indeed no less than one-fifth of all deaths were due to this disease. Of the total, more than half the cases involved the digestive tract. The causation of Cancer is as yet obscure and its increasing prevalence is a matter which calls for urgent consideration. In this connection I would like to utter a warning against the increasing and indiscriminate use of certain drugs, which are looked upon by most people as simple and harmless remedies, and which are largely advertised. I refer to such compounds as the numerous brands of stomach powder associated with name or formula of MacLean. My observations go to show that in many households these are taken almost as a regular article of diet, and in my opinion their continued ingestion over long periods must upset the chemical balance of the tissue fluids, and this may prove to be a factor in the production of malignant conditions, especially of the digestive tract. Instead of prolonged self-medication persons are strongly advised to consult their own Doctor when the first symptoms of any derangement appear. In contrast to the average age at deaths from Tuberculosis which was 45·8 years for males and 25·3 for females, the average age at death from Cancer was exceptionally high, being just over 68 years for both sexes, being higher than the average age at death from all causes, which was 63 years, and actually higher than the average age at death excluding accidents and deaths under two years, which was 67·1 years.

During the year a great amount of time has been expended upon the duties of Housing Inspection, and as a consequence other routine sanitary duties have had to suffer. This, together with the added duties in regard to Air Raid Precautions and other recent legislation, may have to be considered in relation to the staffing of the Public Health Department. I have received the utmost assistance from my Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. T. Harper, and all members of my staff, and close co-operation has been maintained between the various Departments of your Authority.



# PENZANCE

## CLIMATOLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1938.

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	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
TEMPERATURE.	Absolute Maximum ..	54.2	54.2	60.2	60.7	62.5	69.9	71.0	74.0	70.3	63.0	56.0
	Absolute Minimum ..	34.4	32.0	34.2	36.0	39.1	43.7	46.1	44.0	46.0	45.2	24.0
	Mean Maximum ..	50.7	48.7	54.8	56.2	58.4	64.2	64.4	66.3	64.2	59.1	49.3
	Mean Minimum ..	43.0	41.3	44.3	43.2	47.8	52.2	53.6	56.4	53.4	50.8	41.3
	Mean Range .. ..	7.7	7.4	10.5	13.0	10.6	12.0	10.8	9.9	10.8	8.3	8.0
	Number of Frost Days	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Hours of Sunshine ..	53.8	72.1	165.4	243.3	162.9	232.1	150.1	159.7	151.4	124.5	59.5
	Rainfall (inches) ..	5.53	2.11	0.51	0.03	2.84	2.11	3.94	4.79	2.87	5.04	4.10



Mean of Maxima	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	°
								57.7
Mean of Minima	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48.0
Mean Temperature for the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52.9
Mean Temperature for Winter Months (November to March)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47.8
Winter Mean Range	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.2
Total Sunshine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1632.3 hours.
Average Daily Sunshine	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 hrs. 28 mins.	
Mean Humidity	...	...	...	...	...	...	80 per cent.	
Rainfall during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.83 inches.	

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